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**Labor Committee**

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**HB 1987**

**Brief Description:** Adding certain commissioned court marshals of county sheriff's offices to the definition of uniformed personnel for the purposes of public employees' collective bargaining.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Kochmar and Sells.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Extends interest arbitration under the Public Employee's Collective Bargaining Act to certain county court marshals.

**Hearing Date:** 2/16/15

**Staff:** Trudes Tango (786-7384).

**Background:**

Employees of cities, counties, and other political subdivisions of the state bargain their wages and working conditions under the Public Employee's Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA). For certain uniformed personnel, the PECBA recognizes the public policy against strikes as a means of settling labor disputes. For those employees, PECBA requires binding interest arbitration if negotiations for a contract reach impasse and cannot be resolved through mediation. Under interest arbitration, an impartial third party arbitrator makes decisions as to the terms of the contract.

Uniformed personnel include, among others: firefighters; employees of fire departments of public employers who dispatch exclusively either fire or emergency medical services, or both; law enforcement officers in larger cities and counties; general authority peace officers and firefighters employed by certain port districts; correctional employees who are employed in jails by counties with a population of 70,000 or more, and who are trained for and charged with responsibility for custody of inmates in the jail; security forces at a nuclear power plant; and

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publicly employed advanced life support technicians. Other public employees covered by interest arbitration include Washington State Patrol officers.

**Summary of Bill:**

The interest arbitration provisions of the PECBA for uniformed personnel are extended to county court marshals who are employed by, trained for, and commissioned by the county sheriff and charged with enforcing laws, protecting and maintaining security in all county-owned or contracted property, and performing any other duties assigned to them by the county sheriff or mandated by judicial order.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 10, 2015.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.